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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

10 January 1968

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Poles Expell US Military Attache

The Polish government has PNG'd Lt. Col. Metzger, the US military attache arrested on 4 January in Bydgoszcz for photographing Polish military installations.

The fate of the Canadian attache, Lt. Col. Jefferson, remains undecided, but the Poles continue to insist that Jefferson was duped by the Americans into "spying." (Jefferson is "on leave" in Western Europe.)

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The Embassy in Warsaw continues to protest the violation of Metzger's diplomatic immunity by security officials in Bydgoszcz who detained both attaches for nearly 12 hours. A Polish Foreign Ministry official threatened to "reconsider" the recent decision to permit an increase in the attache staff of the US Embassy if the US continues to protest.

Ambassador Gronouski is exercised over the violation of diplomatic immunity but cautioned restraint in taking retaliatory action against a Polish attache in the US. The Ambassador warned the Department that the Poles are perfectly capable of carrying out their threat to withdraw their decision permitting an increase in the size of the attache staff.

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Polish Foreign Minister Rapacki Retiring?

Polish Foreign Minister Rapacki has hinted that he might not be Foreign Minister too much longer. Following a press conference on 6 January in which he reviewed foreign policy in 1967, the Polish Foreign Minister asked newsmen present if they would like "to go over the schedule for 1968." When the reporters replied that they thought the schedule was still secret, Rapacki rejoined by saying "at least for me."

The Embassy in Warsaw also pointed out that Polish newspapers on 6 January highlighted the probability that the Sejm (parliament) would convene sometime in the latter part of the month. This story was featured over reports of leadership changes in Czechoslovakia and led the Embassy to conclude that, if changes in the Polish government were indeed imminent, a Sejm meeting would afford an appropriate time to effect such changes.

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COMMENT: Rapacki, who has been Poland's Foreign Minister since 1956, has suffered several heart attacks over the past ten years. Despite this, he has pursued an exhausting schedule, which has increasingly necessitated frequent and prolonged vacations in order to rest. If the 59-year old Foreign Minister is contemplating retirement, the state of his health is probably a real consideration. However, rumors that personnel changes in the Polish hierarchy are pending have been rampant for more than a year. The Embassy's apprehension over what may have been merely a facetious remark by Rapacki is probably in part the result of these continuing rumors.

More on Renegotiation of Rumanian-USSR Friendship Treaty

After having accidentally seen Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Ilichev in Brasov on 6 and 7 January, the Finnish Ambassador assigned to Bucharest conjectures that Ilichev is in Rumania to negotiate renewal of the Soviet-Rumanian bilateral friendship treaty. The Ambassador noted that Ilichev took part in the talks on the occasion of Ceausescu's visit to Moscow in mid-December. [redacted] 25X1

COMMENT: Various other sources have reported that renegotiation is, or soon will be, underway, and one has even noted that Moscow recently made important concessions in the proposed language that have paved the way for the expected revision. We have been unable to confirm any of these reports. We continue to hold the view that Bucharest will sign only a watered-down version, but failing to achieve language it can live with, will be content to let the treaty automatically renew itself for another five years when it expires on 4 February.

Yugoslav Denies Belgrade-Warsaw Pact Ties

Yugoslav participation in Warsaw Pact defense arrangements has been denied by Zdenko Svete, Foreign Minister Nikezic's chef de cabinet. In a conversation with US Ambassador Elbrick, Svete referred to a 1 January article by Sulzberger, which appeared in the international edition of the Herald Tribune and which alleged that: "Yugoslavia, which backed the Arabs, was represented at the last meeting of Russia's Warsaw Pact, to which it has linked its radar system." Svete denied Belgrade's participation in any such meeting and the linking of the radar systems. [redacted] 25X1 25X1

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US Destroyer Will Visit Yugoslavia

The Yugoslav government has approved a visit by the USS Beale to Split on 19-23 January. Last summer, two ship visits were cancelled because of the anti-US attitude of the Yugoslav press during the Middle East crisis. Reaction to the Beale's visit will provide an indication of the feasibility of a visit in April of the Sixth Fleet flagship.

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COMMENT: The Yugoslavs undoubtedly are attempting, however belatedly, to balance the Soviet fleet visits of last year.

Radvanyi Affair to Gain New Impetus?

A 26 December AP news release reports that Janos Radvanyi, former Charge in Hungary's Washington embassy who defected last spring, will be appointed scholar-in-residence at Stanford University. He will spend the next two years there writing a book on foreign policy decision-making in the Communist world. This news should prove to be upsetting to Hungarian Foreign Ministry officials who have expressed concern that Radvanyi would write a controversial autobiography based on his diplomatic experience.

Radvanyi's defection has become an important issue in arguments between pro and anti-US elements in the Foreign Ministry. Only last fall the conservatives managed to use it as an excuse for curtailing US cultural exchange programs.

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A 27 December Washington Star article linked Dean Rusk personally to Radvanyi's defection. This story might weaken the position of those elements which favor improved US relations.

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NOTE: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE REPRESENT
ONLY THE ANALYSIS OF THE EE DIVISION

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